

# March 2021 PSCS Board Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2021, 6:00 PM,  
PSCS, 9300 Bob Beatty Rd, Charlotte, NC 28269  
Zoom Meeting

## ROLL CALL

### Board Members Present

- Abigail Jennings, Barbara Anne Temple, Erik Giles, Peter Blumenfeld, Will Weaver, Jeanne Bryne, James Freeman

### Board Members Absent

- Sandy Knox, Kim Champion Ananth Nilakantan,

### Administration Present

- Becky Friend, Erin McDonald, Randolph Lewis

### Guests

- De'Onn Griffin, Jessie Hale, Katrina Rodriguez, Holly Kuzin

## CALL TO ORDER

Abigail Jennings established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

## PREVIOUS MINUTES

There were no notable discussions or motions. Will Weaver made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Barbara Anne Temple seconded the motion. Abigail called for any additional questions or comments; there were none. Abigail called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

## GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Erik Giles introduced Dr. James Freeman and Dr. De'onn Griffin both of whom have been serving on the Board's Social Justice Committee this year. Due to personal reasons, Will Weaver, is stepping off the board, and Dr. Freeman will be taking his seat. Dr. Griffin is looking forward to joining the board in the 2021-22 year. Abigail called for a motion to approve Dr. Freeman to the board, Erik Giles made the motion and Barbara Anne Temple seconded the motion. Abigail called for any additional questions or comments; there were none. Abigail called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously. Abigail then thanked Will Weaver for his years of service to Pioneer Springs' Board and in particular his valuable insight and advice for the school's facility projects. Erik then presented our Board Planning Skill Matrix to update the skills for the board trustees for 2021-22 to help the Governance Committee plan for the 2021-22 roles. Abigail shared the board will have two openings next year, as Kim Champion and Ananth Nilakantan will be rolling off the board. Dr. Griffin will be taking one of these seats, and the Governance Committee will be seeking an additional trustee for the remaining role.

Erik then shared the plans for the virtual 2021-2022 lottery being held on March 23, 2021 at 4:30 at pioneerzoom.com. Erik has revised the script for the virtual setting and asked for board

volunteers to assist in the lottery. Barbara Ann, Jeanne, and Peter volunteered, and James offered to be a back-up if needed.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Abigail Jennings presented the February 2021 Financial Statement and Balance Sheet. Erik Giles made a motion to approve the February 2021 Financial Summary and Balance Sheet. Will Weaver seconded the motion. Abigail called for any additional questions or comments; there were none. Abigail called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

## **FACILITIES TASK FORCE**

Peter Blumenfeld updated the Board on the status of the permitting for the High School plans and shared the site map for the proposed facilities. The plan will be phased to ensure two buildings are ready for occupancy in August, with the remaining buildings finished in the 2021-22 school year.

## **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Jeanne Bryne reported:

- Students back on campus
- New Advisory Board Member -- Paul Bocko, M.Ed., M.S. is Faculty in the Antioch University New England Department of Education. He teaches in the Experienced Educator and Integrated Learning (elementary, early childhood, and special education licenses) programs. He is the Concentration Director for Place-based Education and Educating for Sustainability in the Experienced Educator Program. He serves as the Internship Coordinator for the Integrated Learning Program. A selection of courses taught include Place-based Teaching & Learning, Real World Sustainability, the Learning-Centered School, and Ecology of Imagination. Research and special interests include sustainability education, place-based education, place-based social justice, equity in education, sociocultural theory, reconstructionism, and problem-based learning
- Preschool/Daycare Research and Development Phase 2021-2022
- High School Sub-committee has established strong community connections
- Middle School Sub-committee has researched and will be making recommendations regarding Middle School brand and traditions
- Academic Growth has researched Professional Development and teacher resources

## **DIRECTOR REPORTS**

### **Advancement**

Erin McDonald reported:

- Prior to opening we formed "Team A-Dapt" to plan to support the transition back to campus; a modified version of our traditional first 6 weeks.
- Working to create warm and engaging classrooms and seeking plants to provide plants in each classroom. In addition, families are collecting hand-written letters of appreciation for our staff.
- We put together goodie bags for the staff to keep the energy celebratory.
- Professional photographer and PSCS Associate Teacher, Elka Martin is photo-documenting this week at school.

- The Coop Scoop (our weekly parent newsletter) has grown to three pages, communicating details on important details for parents and more.
- Weekly office hours have gone well; same with new parent hours once a month.
- Opening Week: Spirit week. Reverse Parade on Tuesday.
- Free community-driven cooking class last week. Book club starting tomorrow.
- Pioneer Care for before and after school services started today.
- Postponed the staff auction.
- Early April we will record and post a staff recruitment video.
- Summer camp marketing is in process and will launch April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Virtual event planning to start by April 1 for a virtual event in May. Raffle items are being collected. Looking to add a family experience in the raffle.
- May Flower/Plant sale plan to include some of it grown on the campus by our students.
- Lottery prep continues. We have the intent to return form out with a deadline on Friday at 5pm to help with knowing how many spots we will pull in for each grade.
- Post-lottery enrollments are going well.

### **Facilities**

Randolph Lewis reported:

- Today was the first day back for in-person learning, 4 days per week for K-5 and 2 days per week for 6-9.
- Planning the return to campus and making preparations for readying classrooms for Phase 3, the return to in-person learning has been the top priority.
- Revised pick-up and drop-off plan.
- Big thanks to Stratus Cleaning for their attention to detail and custodial services.
- E-rate requests for proposals for new funding to provide additional outdoor wifi throughout the campus.

### **Operations**

Becky Friend reported:

- SB 120 recently ratified by the NC legislature and governor does not apply to charter schools. As of this writing (today) there continues to be discussion about whether or not additional guidance specific to charters will be added. Either way, PSCS is already meeting the standards of that language regarding Plan A for K-5 on 4 day cycle and Plan B "to the extent possible" for 6-9.
- We received the new contract for our annual audit and tax return by Rebekah Barr. Requested approval of the new contract. Jeanne Byrne made a motion to approve the new contract, Barbara Anne Temple seconded the motion. Abigail called for any additional questions or comments; there were none. Abigail called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.
- Very smooth day on campus Monday as staff and students returned in greatest numbers yet to campus. Shared parent email offering praise and asked the parent guests in attendance (Jessie Hale and Holly Kuzin) to share their perspectives, both of which were very positive.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

The board entered into Closed Session at 6:55 pm, upon a motion being made by Barbara Anne Temple, seconded by Jeanne Bryne and confirmed via roll call vote of all board members present pursuant to North Carolina General § 143-318.11(a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

The board ended Closed Session and entered into Open Session at 7:31 pm upon a motion being made by Peter Blumenfeld, seconded by Barbara Anne Temple and confirmed via roll call vote of all Board members present.

Abigail Jennings called for a motion to approve the new contract for Becky Friend. Barbara Anne Temple made a motion to approve the new contract, Jeanne Byrne seconded the motion. Abigail called for any additional questions or comments; there were none. Abigail called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Abigail Jennings called for any further comment or discussion and hearing none requested a motion to adjourn. Erik Giles made the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm, without objection.

Respectfully submitted,



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Abigail Jennings, Chairperson